

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Matthews on 9/1/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1, (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a body to connect a first tubing section to a second tubing section, the body comprising:
a surface;
a first opening concentric with an axis to receive an end of the first tubing section to connect the first tubing section to the body at the first opening;
a second opening concentric with the axis to receive an end of the second tubing section to connect the second tubing section to the body at the second opening; and a passageway eccentric with respect to the axis to communicate fluid after the first and second tubing sections are connected together by the body;
a sleeve other than the body, the sleeve being adapted to be moved from a retracted position to an extended position, the sleeve comprising an outer surface;

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a sealing element to form a sealing contact with the surface of the body and with the surface of the sleeve when the sleeve is in the extended; and

a tubular member comprising a passageway adapted to align with the passageway of the body of the connector such that a gap exists between the passageway of the body and the passageway of the tubular member when both the first and second tubing sections are fully received in the first and second openings and the sleeve is in the retracted position,

wherein the sleeve is adapted to be moved to the extended position to bridge the gap.

wherein the body comprises threads at the first opening adapted to mate with threads of the first tubing section.

Claim 97, (Currently Amended) A connector assembly usable with a well, comprising:

a first body to connect a first tubing section to a second tubing section, the first body comprising:

a first opening concentric with an axis to receive an end of the first tubing section to connect the first tubing section to the body at the first opening,

a second opening concentric with the axis to receive an end of the second tubing section to connect the second tubing section to the body at the second opening, and

a passageway eccentric with respect to the axis to communicate fluid after the first and second tubing sections are connected together by the first body;

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a second body connected to the second tubing section and comprising a passageway coaxial with the passageway of the first body, the second body comprising [[a]] an outer surface;

a sleeve mounted on the second body adapted to be moved from a retracted position to an extended position, the sleeve comprising a surface; and

a sealing element to form a sealing contact with the surface of the second body and with the surface of the sleeve when the sleeve is in the extended position,

wherein a gap exists between the passageway of the first body and the passageway of the second body when both the first and second tubing sections are fully received in the first and second openings and the sleeve is in the retracted position, and the sleeve is adapted to move to the extended position to bridge the gap,

wherein the body comprises threads at the first opening adapted to mate with threads of the first tubing section.

101. (Currently Amended) A method usable with a well, comprising:

providing a body to connect a first tubing section and a second tubing section together;

providing a first threaded opening in the body to receive an end of the first tubing section to connect the first tubing section to the body at the first opening, the first opening being concentric with an axis;

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providing a second opening in the body to receive an end of the second tubing section to connect the second tubing section to the body at the second opening, the second opening being concentric with the axis;

providing a passageway in the body which is eccentric with respect to the axis to communicate fluid after the first and second tubing sections are connected together by the body; and

providing a sleeve other than the body, the sleeve being adapted to be moved from a retracted position to an extended position, wherein a gap exists between the passageway of the body and another passageway when both the first and second tubing sections are fully received in the first and second openings and the sleeve is in the retracted position;

forming a sealed connection between ~~[[a]]~~ an outer surface of the sleeve and a surface of the body when the sleeve is in the extended position; and

bridging the gap, including moving the sleeve to the extended position.

Cancel claim 106.

Claim 107, (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~406~~ 1, wherein the body comprises additional threads at the second opening adapted to mate with threads of the first tubing section.

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Claim 109, (New) The apparatus of claim 97, wherein the body comprises additional threads at the second opening adapted to mate with threads of the first tubing section.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AARON DUNWOODY whose telephone number is (571)272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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